WE CLAIM:

1. A copper base alloy suitable for use as a material for a sliding member consisting of, by mass %, 15 to 25% Zn, 4.2 to 10% Bi, 2 to 7% Mn, 1 to 3% Si and balance of Cu and unavoidable impurities, the alloy having a structure of which matrix is composed of α-single phase, wherein a eutectic structure of the α-phase and an Mn-Si compound and Bi particle are distributed throughout the matrix.

2. A copper base alloy according to claim 1, which has a Vickers hardness ranging from 90 to 180.

3. A copper base alloy according to claim 1, which is heat-treated to be hardened so as to have a Vickers hardness ranging from 120 to 180.

4. A copper base alloy according to claim 1, to which 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B is added.

5. A copper base alloy according to claim 2, to which 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B is added.

6. A copper base alloy according to claim 3, to which 0.05 to 0.3 mass % Se and/or 0.01 to 0.2 mass % B is added.